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SKETCH OF ENTRANCE TO THE NEW BUILDING OF THE  
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

matrical, physical and biological sciences and their applications will be shown in this living museum, whose exhibits will be constantly changing with the progress of science. One week there may be displayed the latest forms of radio telephony; the next perhaps a set of psychological tests or a new find of fossils or a series of synthetic chemical compounds.

#### MEDALS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

At the annual dinner of the Na-

tional Academy of Sciences, April 25, the J. Lawrence Smith Medal was bestowed upon Dr. George P. Merrill, curator of geology at the United States National Museum. This is a gold medal of the value of \$200, from a fund established in 1884, as a reward for "original investigation of meteoric bodies." But because investigators in this field are so rare it has not been given since 1888. Dr. Whitman Cross, in his speech presenting the medal, pointed out that Dr. Merrill had continued to carry on the work of his predecessor, J. Lawrence



OTHENIO ABEL

Professor of Paleontology in the University of Vienna.

From a photograph presented by him to Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn.

Smith, on meteorites by the application of modern methods of analysis. The earlier analyses of meteorites were not always to be relied upon, and Dr. Merrill in his long years of research has been able to show that some of the elements previously reported as having occurred in meteorites are absent and, at the same time, he has extended the list of elements and compounds that do exist in these bodies. Among other minerals he has found a calcium phosphate similar to apatite, which has

been named in his honor Merrillite. Dr. Merrill also has discovered evidences of metamorphism in meteorites, cases where a mineral structure has been broken up and the fragments later fused together like the conglomerates found in igneous rocks in the earth's crust.

Dr. Merrill in receiving the medal said that meteorites had in all ages attracted a great deal of popular interest. In the earliest times they were worshipped as divine and nowadays the newspapers give great atten-



PROFESSOR H. A. LORENTZ, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIDEN, AND  
PROFESSOR DAYTON C. MILLER, OF THE CASE  
SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Professor Lorentz gave the principal address, entitled "Problems of Modern Physics," at the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences.

tion to any meteoric fall. Yet few scientists have made them the subject of concentrated and long-continued study. In his work, Dr. Merrill said he had tried to keep his feet upon the earth as though his shoes had leaden soles and to leave to others premature speculation as to the origin of these bodies. It is evident from their composition that they come from regions where there is no air, for they contain iron, both in a free state and in compounds that are not stable in the presence of oxygen. From their structure it is evident that some have undergone secondary igneous changes. In conclusion, Dr. Merrill quoted the verse, "All my dreams come true to other men," and said that he would leave the developments and deductions from his work to future investigators and "may all my dreams come true to other men."

The address bestowing the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal was made by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn. This medal is intended to be awarded every year for contemporary contributions to zoology. Previous awards were made to F. M. Chapman, C. W. Beebe and Robert Ridgway. Dr. Osborn sketched the history of paleontology from the time when Cuvier first announced the law of correlation. The great American paleontologists, Leidy, Cope and Marsh, limited themselves mostly to description. But now again the time has come when general principles and relationships may be founded upon a more substantial basis. Among the young investigators who are taking up this work is Professor Othenio Abel, of Vienna, who has undertaken a general study of the causes of evolution. His guiding thought is that morphology depends upon physiology

and that to understand a form we must know its function. Professor Abel pursued his studies even during the war when his family was in such distress that he had to send out his children to friends for food, and in 1920 he produced an inspiring work, entitled *Methoden der Paleobiologischen Forschung*.

The medal was received by Edgar L. G. Prochnik, Austrian chargé d'affaires, who said that all Austria would rejoice over this honor done to one of her citizens. Conditions in Austria are exceedingly hard at present on account of the curtailment of Austria's resources and it is felt that the future of Austria lies in the mental power of her sons. The Austrian scientists are determined to bring their country to the rank which she occupied in science and art previous to the war. The disposal of this medal was another proof that science was not limited in its scope to creed or nationality. Professor Abel serves in the ranks of science, the peace maker. President Walcott, in handing over the medal to the representative of the Austrian Legation, said that the award would carry with it an honorarium which was to be forwarded to Professor Abel.

#### THE SALT LAKE CITY MEETING

THE summer session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in conjunction with the sixth annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the Association at Salt Lake City, June 22 to 24, 1922, promises to be a very successful meeting.

Salt Lake City offers many advantages as a meeting place. The center of a rich agricultural and mining section, it has large and important commercial and manufacturing interests. But it is perhaps chiefly famed for its scenic attractions drawing every year thousands of tourists by auto and railway from all parts of the country. The opportunity will be seized by many who will wish to com-

bine a pleasure trip to one of the most interesting sections of the west with the advantages of a scientific meeting.

The hosts of the Salt Lake City meeting will be the University of Utah, the Utah Academy of Sciences, the Utah Agricultural College and the Brigham Young University. Arrangements will be made for the comfort and entertainment of visitors. The meeting will be held under the auspices of the Pacific Division of the Association. Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, the president of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, will preside at the general sessions and will deliver the presidential address at the opening session on Thursday evening, June 22. He will speak on "The conservation and proper utilization of our natural resources."

An outstanding feature of the meeting will be a symposium on "The Problems of the Colorado River." The great reclamation project which has for its object the utilization of the waters of the Colorado River has already attracted wide attention. It is proposed to consider in this symposium the scientific aspects of the problems involved. The arrangement of the symposium is as follows: 1. General description of the Colorado River: Mr. E. C. La Rue, hydraulic engineer, United States Geological Survey, Pasadena, California. 2. Archeology of the Colorado River Basin: Professor H. R. Fairclough, Stanford University, California. 3. Geology of the Colorado River Basin: Dr. Frederick J. Pack, Deseret professor, department of geology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah. 4. The conservation of the waters of the Colorado River from the standpoint of the Reclamation Service: Mr. Frank E. Weymouth, chief of construction, United States Reclamation Service, Denver, Colorado. 5. The interstate and international aspects of the Colorado River problem: Dr. C. E. Grunsky,